

December 27, 1999
2453 '00 JAN -6 AIO 58

Commissioner Jane Henney
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Room 1471
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

Overuse of antibiotics as growth promoters in livestock has been linked to the emergence of antibiotic-resistant diseases. Many of the drugs used to enhance growth in cattle, pigs, and chickens are the same drugs as, or are closely related to, those being used to treat humans.

The European Union has banned all growth-promoting uses of antibiotics used in human medicine. In this country, however, the Food and Drug Administration has taken no action against drugs currently in use. Instead, it has begun a series of meetings to discuss possible restrictions on new approvals of antibiotics.

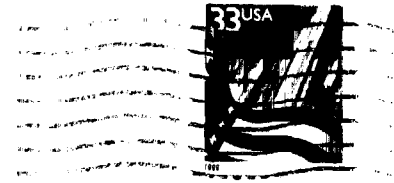
I urge you to follow the lead of the European Union and move immediately to ban animal uses of growth-promoting antibiotics used in human medicine.

Sincerely,



Damon R. Phillips
5608 Bouffant Blvd.
Alexandria, VA 22311

DAMON R. PHILLIPS
5608 BOUFFANT BLVD.
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22311



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